

Managed Grazing Summer Course

College Credits: 1 (ASA CEUs also may be available) (Qualifies for NRCS-TSP training credits)

Catalog #10-090-109 Class # 57341

June – July 2012

Meets on five dates from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

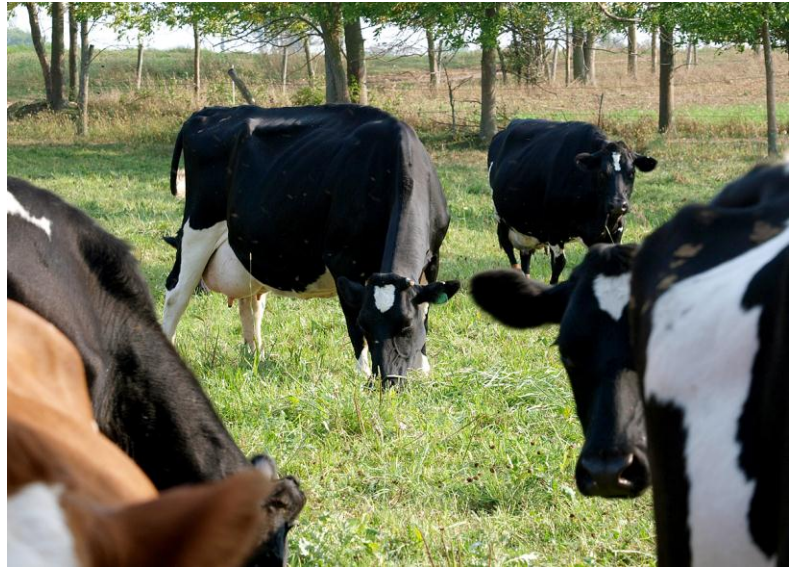
Instructor: Valerie Dantoin Adamski

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: Managed grazing is an art and a science. It is a gateway practice for organic farming and can be very cost effective for beef, dairy and other types of farms. In this course you'll examine the role of soil biology in pasture systems, learn to identify and manage pasture plants, measure feed volume and animal response, learn how to set up fencing and watering systems and examine profitability of this "lean" method of farming.



Cost: \$125 (approximate)

Textbook: Pastures for Profit; UW-extension publication #A3529, provided

CLASS INFORMATION: Classes meet on different working farms within an hour drive of Green Bay.

Class#	Meeting Dates	Topics	Location
1	June 12 th Tues	Soil, Fertilizers, Pasture Plant species, seeding methods,	NWTC/Oneida
2	June 19 th Tues	Paddock design, lanes, measuring pasture volume, installing water, , K-line irrigation	Adamski farm, Seymour
3	June 26 th Wed	Beef animal handling (Temple Grandin designed), gains, rations, behavior, health. On-farm marketing.	Waseeda Farms, Door Co.
4	July 24 th Tues	Fencing, gates, costs, design, construction. Managing horses on pasture.	Sedlar farm, Freemont
5	July 31 Tues	Profitability, farm planning, transitioning, organic standards, student presentations/assessments	NWTC

Originating Location: Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Green Bay. Building: Landscape Horticulture (LH) 107. This building is on the grounds of the Green Bay Botanical Gardens. We leave from the parking lot and will use a school van to head out to various farms for several of the class sessions. You may drive separately.

To Register call (920)498-5444 or (888) 385-NWTC. Enrollment opens on April 12th . The deadline for registering is June 5th.

COURSE COMPETENCIES: You have the opportunity to learn the following skills in this course:

1. Evaluate pasture plants in a grazing system (class 1 & 2)

- Identify different legumes and grasses; explain their roles in a diversified pasture
- Measure pasture yields; Discuss various methods of measure pasture yields
- Predict plant responses to cutting/grazing events at different times of year
- Evaluate plant nutrient deficiencies; Examine plant fertility needs
- Predict how re-seeding may benefit a pasture
- Describe input costs

2. Evaluate the role of soil biology in plant nutrition & managed pasture systems (class 1)

- Observe and recognize classes of soil fauna
- Recognize a well functioning soil and pasture system
- Characterize the impact of soil biology on pastures
- Suggest methods to improve pasture through management of soil biology
- Discuss soil fertility, nutrient cycling and plant nutrient needs in relation to soil biology
- Explain the relationship between perennial pasture and soil conservation

3. Recognizing animal interactions on managed grazing paddocks (class 2 & 3)

- Move animals from paddock to paddock; Observe animal movement and behavior
- Estimate feed intake on various paddocks for different species
- Compare impacts of animal species on pasture and examine fencing requirements
Describe typical ruminant rations that include well managed pasture
- Evaluate grazed animal body condition, production, reproduction and health
 - Recommend a pasture rotation based on animal needs
- Spot potential hazards and health problems of animals on pasture

4. Evaluate a fencing plan and water system plan (class 2 & 4)

- Critique pre-planning questions for farmers
- Summarize steps needed to create a fencing plan
- Calculate the total area to be fenced
- Design an effective paddock and lane layout
- Detail the fence components needed
- Compare various portable fencing technologies
Estimate the cost of a proposed fencing plan
Recognize components needed for a watering system
Compare watering system designs
- Estimate costs and return on investment of a watering system
- Summarize information on financial and technical resources and programs to farmers

5. Evaluate a managed grazing system from a profitability perspective (class 5)

Recognize the necessary components of a grazing plan
Estimate the costs and returns
Discuss the costs and benefits
Recommend for or against adoption of the plan
Summarize the relationship of managed grazing to organic agriculture